

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 IGA-01 SAB-01 AID-05 NIC-01 /068 W

----- 115000

R 191649Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2591

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PN

SUBJ: CRITICISM OF AID FAILS TO DEVELOP

REF: PANAMA 7044

1. EXCEPT FOR SOME MINOR ECHOS, THE ATTACK LAUNCHED BY GOVERNMENT-OWNED RADIO LIBERTAD ON USAID ACTIVITIES APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED. RADIO LIBERTAD FOLLOWED UP IT SINITIAL CRITICISM BY BROADCASTING SATIRICAL SONG REPEATING EARLIER INNUENDOES. SUBSEQUENTLY SAME STATION REPORTED DEC 13 COMMUNIQUE FROM GROUP CALLING INTSELF CENTER OF WORKERS IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WHICH REPEATED ATTACK ON AID. HOWEVER, NO OTHER RADIO STATION HAS PICKED UP THEME AND ACCUSATIONS HAVE NOT APPEARED IN PRESS.

2. ALTHOUGH GEN. TORRIJOS WAS ABSENT FROM COUNTRY LAST WEEK, AMBASSADOR FOUND MEANS TO CONVEY HIS DISPLEASURE OVER SCURRILOUS ATTACK ON AID TO THE GENERAL THROUGHT TWO OF TORRIJOS' CLOSEST CONFIDANTS AND THROUGH SEVERAL RANKING NATIONAL GUARD OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION USAID PERSONNEL WORKING ON NON-FORMAL EDUCATION RADIO PROJECT WHICH EVOKED INITIAL ATTACK, SPOKE WITH PLANNING MINISTER AND EDUCATION MINISTER ROYO ABOUT THIS MATTER. AFTER HEARING CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH FIELD SURVEY WAS TAKEN WITH FULL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KNOWLEDGE AND PARTICIPATION OF MINISTRY PERSONNEL, ROYO

EXPRESSED HIS DISTRESS OVER INCIDENT.

3. IN PARTICULAR, THE FAILURE OF OTHER RADIO STATIONS OR NEWSPAPERS TO JOIN IN ATTACK AGAINST USAID DISCOUNTS LIKELIHOOD THAT CRITICISM WAS GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED. CENTER OF WORKERS IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IS A SMALL GROUP OF YOUNG REVOLUTIONARY ARTISTS WITH AN ANTI-US BIAS. THE GROUP IS VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN AND HAS NO SIGNIFICANCE IN ARTISTIC (OR POLITICAL) FIELD. WHILE EARLIER CHARGES MIGHT POSSIBLY RECUR FROM TIME TO TIME, EMBASSY SEES NO LASTING DAMANGE RESULTING FROM INTEMPERATE RADIO LIBERTAD ATTACKS. THERE IS EVEN A POSSIBILITY OF SOME POSITIVE FALLOUT DERIVING FROM OPPORTUNITY TO CALL THIS IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR TO ATTENTION OF GOP AUTHORITIES.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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